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Obama injects new urgency in push for gun laws

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (AFP) - President Barack Obama Monday heaped pressure on Congress for action "soon" on curbing gun violence, flanked by uniformed police officers he said should not be outgunned on US streets.

In his most high profile intervention in the guns debate since unveiling a package of executive actions and recommendations for new laws last month, Obama flew to Minneapolis, a city that has pioneered efforts to stem gun violence.

Obama made a pragmatic case for legislation on the contentious issue, arguing that just because political leaders could not save every life, they should at least try to save some victims of rampant gun crime.

And characteristically, Obama betrayed impatience with the pace of work in Congress, more than six weeks after the massacre of 20 children and six adults at a Con-

nnecticut elementary school again electrified the gun debate.

"There has been a lot of talk, a lot of conversation, a lot of publicity -- but we haven't actually taken concrete steps yet," Obama said, at an event which began to make good on a White House promise to campaign hard on the guns effort.

"We don't have to agree on everything to agree it is time to do something." The president specifically tried to build support for his own plans, including enhanced background checks for gun owners and bids to close loopholes to ensure guns do not get into the hands of the mentally ill.

The president's plans are vigorously opposed by many Republicans, who believe he is watering down the constitutional right to bear arms, and by the gun lobby headed by the powerful National Rifle Association.

Always a delight:
Oranjestad Grand Children's Carnival Parade



Nothing is more adorable than kids in costume! Multiply this by the thousands and add some fantastic floats and elegant roadpieces and you have a most enjoyable Carnival 59 Children's Parade. Oranjestad streets were filled with music, glitter and amazing displays of carnival artistry this past Sunday, February 3.

1,335 gloriously costumed

kids and seven bands wended their way through town. Participating groups included: Little Groovers, Deja & Jolly Kids, Don Flip Carnival Group, Marlins Carnival Group, No Futuro and T.O.B. Kids. All groups did a spec-

tacular job on costumes and same great floats. This was undoubtedly one of the most impressive parades of this Carnival season so far.

(see more photo coverage pg 4)

By Rosalie Klein

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**Oranje Fonds organizes a quest for the 'Kroonappels'
The public will help the Royal couple find their way in the neighborhoods**

**Oranje Fonds
Kroonappels**

On the occasion of the upcoming inauguration, Oranje Fonds organizes a special edition of the 'Appeltjes van Oranje'. The public is requested to choose the most precious social initiatives in their district or on the island where they live.

Initiatives to sign up can start as of today in three categories: Youth, Neighborhood and Helping Hand. The three final winning organizations will be entitled to Oranje Fonds 'Kroonappels', win EURO 50.000,- and receive a bronze statue. This will be presented by the new King and Queen at the Noordeinde Palace. You can sign up till March 8th at www.kroonappels.com.

Each year The Oranje Fonds rewards the most successful social initiative by presenting the 'Appeltjes van Oranje'. A special edition is organized on the occasion of the inauguration of the patron and patroness of the fund. Community organizations all over the Kingdom can enter existing initiatives in one of the three categories. Everybody can vote on their initiative of choice in their own district or on their Caribbean island during the voting weekend of March 15, 16 and 17. The chosen organizations will proceed to the second round, where they, as peers, will review each other. One

winner is chosen in each category. The ultimate winners will be chosen during the national closing day on April 18th.

Ronald van der Giessen, director of Oranje Fonds: "We would really like to do something special for the patron and patroness. What better way than to invite everybody in the Kingdom to help find the Oranje Fonds 'Kroonappels'? By doing this, we help our new King and Queen find the way towards organizations and initiatives that truly express what Oranje Fonds stands for! We hope many organizations will participate but also that many people will go and vote!"

Organizations can participate in the YOUTH category by proposing existing initiatives that improve and contribute to opportunities for our youth. The NEIGHBORHOOD category encompasses existing initiatives and organizations that work on unity among people in the neighborhoods or improvement of the neighborhoods. The last category consists of existing initiatives where VOLUNTEERS lend a helping hand to others in society. Organizations can enter their existing initiatives till March 8th and have the opportunity to be named a 'Kroonappel' of the Oranje Fonds.

Continued on pg 3

RBC and CDB sign US\$ 300 million Bond issue

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad--RBC Capital Markets, working in conjunction with RBC Merchant Bank (Caribbean) Limited, successfully placed a US\$300 Million Amortising Bond issue (consistent with US Reg S and 144A markets) for the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), to bolster regional development and stimulate economic growth within the region.

CDB is the region's only multilateral development financing organisation, and has the highest long-term debt securities rating of all Caribbean financial institutions, with an AA grade from Standard and Poor's, and an Aa1 rating from Moody's. RBC (Canada) is rated A by Standard & Poor's and A1 by Moody's for Subordinated debt.

The 15-year fixed rate bond bears interest of 4.375% annually until maturity in 2027, and represents a significant investment inflow into the region. Proceeds of the bond issue will be used to augment CDB's capital ratios further, particularly in the face of prevailing downward trending regional economic conditions and the marginal growth being experienced throughout the region.

The bond is expected to have a positive impact on CDB's development initiatives, ultimately supporting funding for the Bank's Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs).

As outlined in its Strategic Plan 2010-2014, CDB, plans to assist BMCs in confronting their major development challenges, as well as in implementing policies and strategies which would contribute to their economic and social development.

In commenting on the recently signed deal with



Mr. Sookoo

CDB, C.E.O., RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited, Suresh Sookoo, said, "This bond issue reflects not only RBC's commitment to regional capital market development, but also illustrates our ongoing drive to collaborate with organisations, like CDB, in the spirit of sustainable investment in the Caribbean."

"We believe that the bond arrangement between CDB and RBC is indicative of the intent of both parties to deliver best-in-practice, globally competitive and relevant financing solutions and sup-

port to our clients in the Caribbean," Sookoo added.

RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited is the second largest financial institution by assets in the English Caribbean, with branches in 20 countries and territories and has consistently maintained a proven track record of successfully raising financing from local and regional bond markets.

The investment arm of RBC Financial (Caribbean), RBC Merchant Bank is headquartered in Trinidad, and has regional reach with dedicated expertise within major Caribbean markets including Jamaica, Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean and Central America, in addition to Trinidad and Tobago.

This latest bond issue between RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited and CDB follows the successful execution of another substantial bond issue in November 2012; this one between RBC Merchant Bank and RBC Royal Bank (Trinidad and Tobago) Limited for TTD 300 million (approximately USD 50 million).

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Government meets with members of AHATA and Union



Since last week the Minister of Labor has been meeting with members of AHATA and

the union to find a solution to the impasse with respect to the matter of referendums.

Oranje Fonds organizes a quest for the 'Kroonappels'

Continued from pg 2



The Oranje Fonds supports social initiatives with fund, know-how and contacts. The fund invests about 30 million to nearly 8,000 large and small social organizations per year. The financial means are provided by the Nationale Postcode Loterij, the Lotto and Friends and the business community. The Prince of Orange and Princess Máxima are the patron and patroness of the Fund.

For more information: www.kroonappels.com.

For some time now AHATA and the union are of different opinions with respect to the organization of referendums in the hotels. The Minister of Labor's interventions are to seek a solution. For many years the practice of requiring a referendum has allowed for this to become departmentalized, something all parties were in agreement with. However, most recently they have taken this practice a step further where they began re-

questing referendums for sub-departments.

AHATA has now taken the position that they are no longer in agreement with requesting referendums for sub-departments nor are they any longer in favor of referendums for departments. It is this position that is now in serious dispute with the unions which has created the impasse.

The Minister of Labor does support departmental referendums, however, the

matter of sub-divisions requires further study.

In the first instance AHATA was heard and allowed to present their point of view followed by the union who did likewise. According to the government, this matter can only be settled at the table where the best solution for the worker, the employer and the union has to be sought. The objective is to be able to agree to benefit the workforce and Aruba.



RBC Royal Bank

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Oranjestad Grand Children's Carnaval Parade



Online search ads expose racial bias: study

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Ads pegged to Google search results can be racially biased because of how certain names are associated with blacks or whites, according to a new study.

Harvard University professor Latanya Sweeney found "statistically significant discrimination" when comparing ads served with results from online searches made using names associated with blacks and those with whites.

The study contrasted online searches using names such as "Ebony" and "DeShawn," with those such as "Jill" and "Geoffrey."

Ads posted alongside search results for names likely to belong to blacks tended to suggest criminal activity with offers along the lines of background checks for arrests, according to the study.

Searches using white-sounding names prompted results with neutral ads, the Sweeney's research indicated.

The findings raise "questions as to whether Google's advertising technology exposes racial bias in society and how ad and search technology can develop to assure racial fairness," Sweeney said in a blog post.

Advertisers bid on terms, or key words, with high bidders getting their ads posted alongside corresponding search results. Google defends the process as race-neutral, saying outcomes are driven by decisions by advertisers.

The study dated last week was funded in part by the National Science Foundation and a grant from Google.

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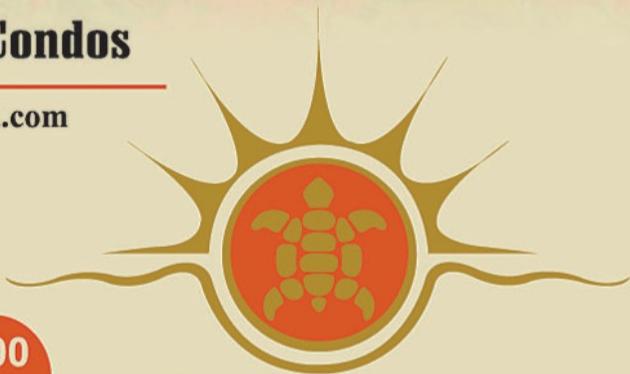
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Sentimentality scoops Super Bowl ads

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Unabashed sentimentality took the unofficial Super Bowl trophy for advertising brilliance on Sunday, with draft horses and pickup trucks both putting a lump in America's collective throat.

Budweiser's touching pocket narrative of an equine farmer reunited on the streets of Chicago with the Clydesdale he nurtured from birth for the beer's signature draft horse team was a run-away hit with viewers and critics

alike.

New York ad agency Anomaly married the heart-warming imagery with Fleetwood Mac's sorrowful "Landslide" for the 60-second spot that went to invite a real-life newborn Budweiser foal via the brewer's Twitter account.

USA Today said the Budweiser ad took first place in its online reader-voted Ad Meter survey of Super Bowl commercials.

"Weepy, sentimental, nos-

talgic," wrote Kim Wheaton of Advertising Age in an instant analysis of the night's 50-plus commercials on the industry journal's website (www.adage.com).

"I don't care. This is everything I want from a Budweiser Super Bowl spot."

Viewers were still going onto Twitter to admit to shedding tears when Ram, the pickup division of Chrysler, weighed in a few minutes after Budweiser with a solemn ode to rural America

created by Texas ad agency Richards Group.

It married spectacular photography of the Great Plains with late conservative broadcaster Paul Harvey's 1978 essay "So God Made a Farmer" -- and never revealed until the final few seconds that it was selling a truck.

"From the second it started to the last frame, I sat silent and mesmerized," tweeted Rick Liebling, an expert on the relationship be-

tween culture and creative advertising at New York ad agency Y&R.

Patriotism figured in another Chrysler spot, this time for Jeep, that celebrated the homecoming of American soldiers from Afghanistan.

The Super Bowl is the single most watched event on US television, easily pulling in more than 100 million viewers, and this year CBS was selling 30 seconds of ad time for as much as \$3.8 million.

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Samsung to pump \$1 bn into research, venture fund

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Samsung announced Monday it was pumping more than \$1 billion into research and venture capital funding efforts that will be led by a new hub for the South Korean giant in Silicon Valley.

The electronics giant said it was launching a \$1 billion "Samsung Ventures America Fund" and a \$100 million "catalyst fund" which will "fuel innovative technologies and business models through all stages of business."

The company also said it will be launching its new Samsung Strategy and Innovation Center in Menlo Park, California, with offices in South Korea and Israel, led by Young Sohn, the company's president and chief strategy officer of device so-

lutions.

The move by the world's largest technology firm by revenue and top smartphone comes as it ramps up its battle in the United States against California-based Apple, with the two firms embroiled in bitter legal battles.

Samsung has been ordered to pay Apple \$1 billion for patent infringement but is appealing the verdict.

Samsung said the new drive would "create a powerful platform for igniting global innovation" and was part of an effort "to create new businesses and build open ecosystems through research and development, investments, strategic alliances, and M&A (mergers and acquisitions)."

Israel will 'regret aggression against Syria': Iran

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Israel will regret its latest "aggression against Syria", Iran's security chief Saeed Jalili told reporters during a visit to Damascus on Monday.

"Just like it regretted all its wars... the Zionist entity will regret its aggression against Syria," said Jalili, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, a day after Israel implicitly confirmed it staged an air strike near Damascus last week.

"The Syrian people and government are serious about this, and the Muslim world supports Syria," Jalili said.

"Syria is at the forefront of the Muslim world's confrontation with the Zionist entity," he added, in reference to Israel.

In Munich on Sunday, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak implicitly confirmed that the Jewish state had staged an air strike on Syria, following reports of an air raid which Damascus said targeted a military complex near the capital.

Barak told the Munich Security Conference that the strike was "another proof that when we say something we mean it."

Republicans pressure Obama over budget, spending

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republicans are pressuring US President Barack Obama to unveil a federal budget, saying failure to introduce a blueprint by Monday as required shows the White House is not serious about curbing spending.

House Republicans plan to take up a measure this week that would force the president to identify the date that his fiscal year budget would balance when he submits it to Congress later this year. If the budget does not do so, Obama would have to submit a new one that does.

"This week, the House will act on a measure requiring the president to submit a balanced budget, and we hope he uses this opportunity to offer the American people his plan to do that," House Speaker John Boehner said.

Republicans in the House will soon pass a budget, but "for the fourth time in five years this White House has proven it does not take tril-

lion-dollar deficits seriously enough to submit a budget on time," Boehner added.

The president is required by Congress to submit his budget request for the upcoming fiscal year by the first Monday of February.

Paul Ryan, chairman of the powerful House Budget Committee and last year's Republican vice presidential nominee, said he was disappointed but "not surprised" that the president missed his deadline, and that Obama and Senate Democrats repeatedly "shirk their duty" on the budget.

"We've still got time, but it's dwindling. Every missed deadline is a missed opportunity," Ryan said in a statement.

White House spokesman Jay Carney dismissed the criticism, urging a focus on "substance over deadlines" and denouncing House Republicans for passing "highly partisan" budgets that have "no support among the Amer-

ican people."

Carney did not say whether Obama would release a budget before his State of the Union address on February 12.

The budget spat comes on the heels of December's bitterly fought battle over how to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff, the combination of tax hikes and spending cuts that threatened to drag the economy back toward recession unless Congress acted.

Lawmakers ultimately raised taxes on the very rich, and postponed until March 1 the start of nearly \$1 trillion in automatic cuts to defense and domestic spending over the next decade, a process known as sequester.

Democrats have been mulling options for averting the mandated cuts, including a proposal that would raise further revenues while imposing new spending cuts.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Sunday that "there's still more that we can

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On coup anniversary, Chavez health said 'improving'



VENEZUELA, Caracas : (L to R) Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro, the president of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello and Venezuelan Minister of Defense Diego Molero Bellavia, stand next to a huge portrait of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez during the commemoration of the 1992 failed coup led by Chavez

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's National Assembly speaker Diosdado Cabello marked Monday's anniversary of a 1992 coup attempt led by Hugo Chavez by assuring that the cancer-stricken president is "improving every day."

Cabello also warned that any attempt to "cross the lines and instructions of commander Chavez will be paid back by the people."

That double message came in a speech to a military audience commemorating the 21st anniversary of the failed military uprising against then president Carlos Andres Perez.

Chavez, then a young paratrooper, was sent to prison but was pardoned two years later and elected president in 1999. Now a prolonged bout with cancer has raised uncertainty about his condition and political future.

"Commander Chavez is on his way to recovery, im-

proving every day, signing what we take him, giving instructions, giving orders, concerned about the people," said Cabello.

Cabello returned Sunday from a visit with Chavez, who is convalescing in Havana after a fourth round of cancer surgery that has been followed by complications.

In Havana, Cuban leader Fidel Castro said Sunday that the 58-year-old Chavez was doing "much better."

"It has been a tough struggle but he has been improving," Castro said in comments carried by the official Granma newspaper, adding: "We have to cure him. Chavez is very important for his country and for Latin America."

The Venezuelan president, an anti-US firebrand who often commanded his country's airwaves for hours at a time, has not been seen or heard from since he arrived in Cuba on December 10 for the surgery.

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International News**German jail term for father of 'honour killing' victim**

BERLIN (AFP) - A German court on Monday handed down a six-and-a-half year jail term to a Kurdish man whose son gunned down his sister in a so-called "honour killing" that shocked Germany.

The regional court in the western German city of Detmold found 53-year-old Fendi Ozmen guilty of complicity to murder, grievous bodily harm and wrongful imprisonment after Arzu, his 18-year-old daughter, was murdered.

The son, Osman, kidnapped his sister from the apartment of her German boyfriend in November 2011.

After a 10-week search that sparked intense media interest, she was found near the northern city of Hamburg with two bullet wounds to the head.

Osman admitted shooting his sister and was sentenced to life imprisonment in May.

The victim's sister, Sirin, and another brother, Kirer, re-

ceived 10 years behind bars for kidnapping, wrongful imprisonment and complicity to murder.

Two other brothers, Elvis and Kemal, are serving five-and-a-half-year terms for kidnapping and wrongful imprisonment.

The family, originally from eastern Turkey, belongs to the traditional Yazidi group and could not accept that Arzu was with a man from outside the community, which numbers about 60,000 in Germany.

Presiding judge Michael Reineke said there was no proof that Fendi Ozmen had incited other members of the family to kill his daughter but did not do enough to prevent it.

A Berlin-based group that seeks to help young women and girls threatened with violence or forced marriage, Papatya, has said 45 known cases occurred in the country from 1996 to 2004.



TIMBUKTU : A girl prepares fresh-caught fishes on the bank of the Niger river, near Timbuktu, on February 4, 2013. French fighter jets pounded Islamist supply bases in northern Mali to flush the insurgents out of hiding as Paris pushed on February 4, 2013 for African troops to quickly take over the offensive. Dozens of French warplanes carried out massive air strikes on rebel training and logistics centres in the area around their last stronghold of Kidal over the weekend in the mountainous northeast of the landlocked county.

UN Council vows 'strong' action on N.Korea nuclear test

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The UN Security Council will take "very firm and strong" action against any nuclear test by North Korea, the council president said Tuesday.

Kim Sook, South Korea's UN envoy, said the test appeared "imminent" and any blast would be "a dangerous attempt to undermine the authority and credibility of the Security Council."

The 15-member council is "unified and they are very firm

and resolute. I would expect very firm and strong measures to be taken," Kim told reporters at the UN headquarters as his country assumed the council's presidency for February.

"We cannot sit idly by and do nothing vis-a-vis some devastating provocative action done by North Korea," the envoy added.

North Korea has said it will stage a test and experts have predicted it will come before

the Lunar New Year on February 10 or be timed to coincide with the February 16 birthday of leader Kim Jong-Un's late father Kim Jong-Il.

The Security Council widened sanctions against the unpredictable North in January after it staged a rocket test, which is banned under UN Security Council resolutions.

South Korea took up a two-year place on the Security Council in January.

Belgium's 'lifer' child killer Dutroux seeks early release

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgium's notorious serial paedophile killer Marc Dutroux asked a special court for early release Monday after serving 16 years of a life sentence for the kidnap, rape and gruesome murder of several young girls.

The 56-year-old, the country's most reviled criminal, was escorted under heavy surveillance from a high-security prison to the central Brussels courthouse as a helicopter hovered overhead and 125 officers stood guard over the court building.

Weeks before he can formally lodge a request for early release -- on April 30 -- Dutroux at a closed-door hearing that lasted almost two hours asked to be placed under house arrest with an electronic tag.

Lambrechts, whose brother attended the hearing, was 19 when she disappeared in the port of Ostend in 1995. Her body was found almost a year later along with that of a 17-year-old.

Deutsch had said his client, who was slipped into the court unseen through a back door, would ask for early release on the grounds that he could find "a job, or at least an income, accommodation, and show why the risk of recidivism should as

far as possible be discounted".

Coming months after his former wife and accomplice won parole to go live in a convent, the request has horrified Belgians and revived demands for a rewrite of the country's legislation on parole. Parliament is currently examining a proposal to tighten conditions for winning parole.

A handful of protesters outside the courthouse demanded a hanging for Dutroux, "the rope for paedophiles".

The former electrician was jailed for life in June 2004 for the kidnap and rape between June 1995 and August 1996 of six young and teenaged girls, four of whom died.

With both the prison and judicial administration having said the chances of a relapse for Dutroux are too great to agree to an early release, he has little

hope of winning the appeal.

His release would be a bombshell in Belgium, still traumatised by the worst criminal case in the history of the kingdom, and one of the first in Europe to put paedophilia squarely in the public eye.

The release in August of Michelle Martin, his ex-wife and accomplice, caused an outcry.

The 52-year-old mother of three of the jailed killer's children, a former schoolteacher, was granted release on parole in May after serving barely half of a 30-year sentence.

Public shock turned to fury when it emerged not only that police had missed a string of clues, but that Dutroux had been released from jail in 1992 after serving just three years of a 13-year sentence for the abduction and rape of five girls.

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Health & Living **TB: Prototype vaccine draws a blank**



PARIS (AFP) - The most promising vaccine to replace the world's 91-year-old tuberculosis jab does not protect against the disease, according to results released Monday of large-scale trials conducted among infants in South Africa.

Doctors have had high hopes for the formula, known as MVA85A, as the existing Bacille-Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine does not protect against pulmonary TB, the most common form of the disease among adults and adolescents.

MVA85A was found to be safe and had no side effects, but "did not provide statistically significant protection" against the TB microbe, the researchers announced.

The trial was a so-called

Phase IIb, comprising the intermediate step between the second and final phases of the long process by which drugs are vetted for safety and efficacy.

It is the first TB vaccine candidate to reach this stage since BCG, which was licensed for humans in 1921.

The trial, launched in 2009, saw the drug tested on 2,800 infants in South Africa's Western Cape province who did not have TB or the AIDS virus.

All of the children were given BCG at birth. Half of them also received a single dose of MVA85A at four to six months of age, and the others were given a harmless placebo.

They were then monitored over 37 months. Among the BCG-plus-placebo group, there were 39 cases of TB; among the BCG-plus-MVA85A group, there were 32.

The difference amounts to vaccine efficacy of 17.3 percent.

The results, published in the journal *The Lancet*, are disappointing but should also provide vital insights, said senior researcher Helen McShane of the University of Oxford.

"The results from this study should let us know far more about the type and level of im-

mune response required, and that will boost future efforts to develop an effective TB vaccine," she said in a press release.

"The difficulty of this task is one reason why there has not been a new TB vaccine since BCG was developed more than 90 years ago, but one is still urgently needed and I'm not about to give up now."

TB is an infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and is one of the world's deadliest diseases.

It is spread from person to person through the air and usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body such as the brain and kidneys.

Nearly nine million people around the world had TB in 2011, including more than 400,000 with a multidrug resistant form of the disease, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

More than a dozen TB vaccines are under trial around the world, a figure that has risen sharply over the past decade.

In a commentary also published by *The Lancet*, TB experts Christopher Dye at the WHO and Paul Fine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said the verdict for MVA85A was not "terminal".

It could show higher protection in other TB settings, they said.

MVA85A is also being tested in a Phase IIb study among people with HIV in Senegal and South Africa, a Phase IIa study in infants born to HIV-positive mothers in South Africa, and in Phase I studies in Britain.

Also unexplored is whether MVA85, working as booster to the BCG, can protect adolescents and adults against pulmonary TB even though it cannot do this for infants, the pair said.

Death toll in South Brazil fire rises to 237

SAO PAULO (AFP) - A 22-year-old man injured in the disco fire in Brazil has died, bringing the death toll to 237, officials said.

The health secretariat of Rio Grande do Sul state said Bruno Portella Fricks died in a Porto Alegre hospital late Saturday from injuries he suffered in last Sunday's blaze in the college town of Santa Maria.

He was among a total of 114 injured still being treated in various hospitals in Porto Alegre and Santa Maria, the secretariat said in a statement.

Police have linked the fire to a flare musicians bought for the show "that they knew was designed exclusively for

outside use," but which was much cheaper than indoor flares.

Authorities have been holding since Monday the two owners of the "Kiss" nightclub in Santa Maria and the two musicians who allegedly took part in the ill-fated pyrotechnic show.

The authorities have also cited security violations at the club, including a lack of emergency lights, fire extinguishers that did not work, and an overcrowded dance floor.

The Santa Maria tragedy is a huge embarrassment for Brazil as it prepares to host the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Paris women finally allowed to wear trousers

PARIS (AFP) - Women in Paris can finally wear trousers without fear of criminal prosecution after the government said a more than 200-year-old ban no longer had any legal effect. Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, France's minister of women's rights, said in a statement that the ban, imposed on November 17, 1800, was incompatible with modern French values and laws. The municipal order required Parisian women to seek permission from local police if they wanted to "dress like a man" by wearing trousers. It was modified in 1892 and 1909 to allow women to wear trousers if they were "holding a bicycle handlebar or the reins of a horse" but had officially remained on the books. Parisian women had demanded the right to wear trousers during the French Revolution, when working-class revolutionaries were known as "sans-culottes" for wearing trousers instead of the silk-knee breeches (culottes) favoured by the bourgeoisie. Women's dress continues to stir political passions in France, with Cecile Duflot, the 37-year-old Green housing minister, criticised last May for wearing jeans to the first cabinet meeting of Socialist President Francois Hollande's new government. She was later subjected to jeers and wolf-whistles while wearing a floral summer dress in the National Assembly. A number of women also broke parliamentary protocol by wearing jeans during an extended debate at the weekend over France's planned legalisation of gay marriage.



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Sci-Tech**How science digs up the royal dirt (1)**

above - As he was ... A portrait of King Richard III is seen during a news conference in Leicester, where researchers announced the discovery of his body.
below - remains of England's King Richard III, which have been missing for 500 years



-- LOUIS XVI:
PARIS (AFP) - The identification of King Richard III's skeleton is the latest coup by forensic scientists who use radiocarbon-dating, DNA analysis, 3D scanning and other hi-tech tools to unlock the secrets of the long-dead.

A skeleton found under a car park in the English city of Leicester was on Monday confirmed as that of king Richard III, widely depicted as one of history's most notorious villains.

Scientists from the University of Leicester matched DNA from the 500-year-old skeleton with descendants of the king's sister, while the skeleton had the twisted spine and battle injuries consistent with contemporary accounts.

The find has caused huge excitement among historians, as it provides firm evidence about a monarch whose life has been shrouded in controversy ever since his death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

Richard's body was paraded naked and bloody on the back of a horse in Leicester, in central England, before being buried in an unmarked grave at Greyfriars, a friary in the city.

Historians now hope to dispel some of the myths about Richard.

Other famous cases include:

In December 2012, scientists from Spain and France authenticated the remains of a rag said to have been dipped in the blood of France's last absolute monarch after his beheading in January 1793.

They linked DNA found in the sample, kept in an ornately-decorated vegetable gourd, to another gruesome artefact: a mummified head believed to belong to Louis' 17th century predecessor Henri IV.

The rare shared genetic signature gave firm evidence for authenticating both sets of remains.

-- HENRI IV:
The revolution in which Louis and queen Marie-Antoinette lost their heads also saw mobs ransack the royal chapel at Saint-Denis, north of Paris. Ancient monarchs like Henri were hauled from their tombs, defiled and thrown into a pit.

An individual was recorded to have rescued a severed head from the chaos, allegedly that of "Good King Henri", famous for promoting religious tolerance but assassinated by a Catholic fanatic in 1610.

In 2010, scientists found proof that the head was Henri's, citing physical features that matched 16th-century portraits, radiocarbon dating, 3D scanning and X-rays.



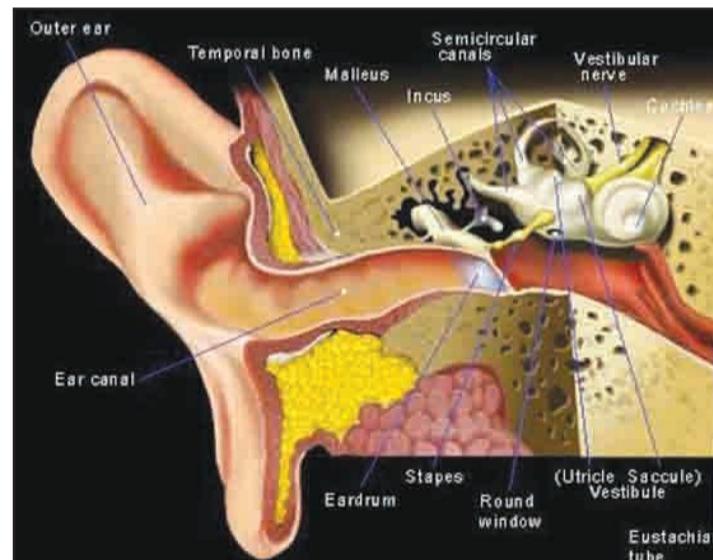
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In mice, gene therapy boosts hope for the deaf

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists using gene therapy have partially restored hearing and balance in profoundly deaf mice, according to a study published in the journal Nature Medicine.

The research, still in its early stages and restricted to lab animals, may open up new avenues for tackling Usher syndrome, an inherited form of human deafness that usually goes hand in hand with blindness.

The USH1C gene controls a protein called harmonin, which plays a vital role in hair cells -- the cells in the cochlea of the inner ear that respond to sound waves and send an electrical signal to the brain.

The team devised a tiny

strand of genetic material called an antisense oligonucleotide to "switch off" a faulty version of the gene that produces truncated forms of the protein.

The therapy was injected in newborn mice that had been genetically engineered to have the mutation.

A single injection partially restored their hearing at very low frequencies, and also reduced head tossing, a behaviour caused by impaired balance.

After the experiment, the mice were dissected, and their cochleas were found to have grown some hair cells.

The success of antisense oligonucleotides adds a further

weapon in the quest to overcome deafness.

Last month, doctors at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear and Harvard Medical School reported on a gene drug that transformed cells in the cochlea into hair cells.

In 2012, investigators at the University of California, San Francisco targeted a fix for a faulty version of a gene called VGLUT3. The gene controls a protein that is vital for hair cells to send the signals they pick up.

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COMICS

PICKLES

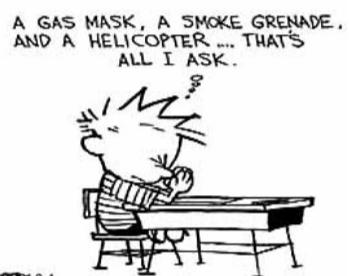
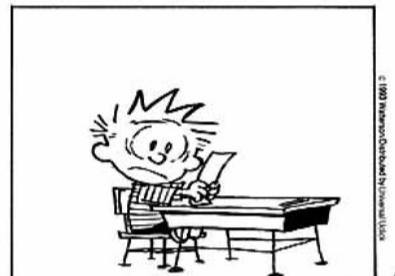


MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES

1. Write a paragraph explaining the significance of Magellan's expedition.



CROSSWORD

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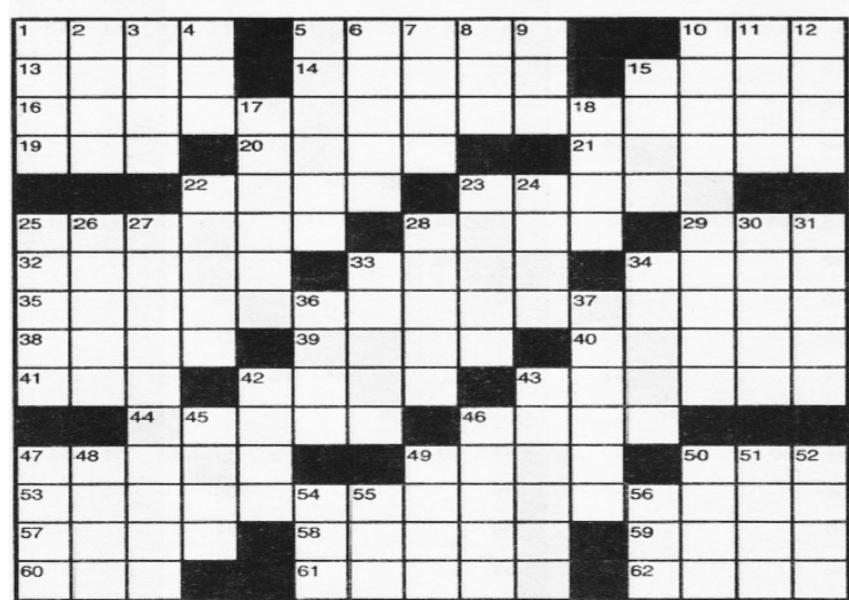
CROSSWORD

COMICAL ONES

ACROSS

- Love, in Leon
- Don
- Shoot from the ___
- Monsieur Coty
- Vision-boggling paintings of the '60s
- Staff member
- Bill Watterson's comic duo
- Shrewd
- Chain segment
- Farm cry
- Performed a brake job
- Horse artisan
- Singer Emmylou
- Penn's pronoun
- Wedding announcement word

- "... and hungry look"
- Go on a voyage
- Fool
- Henry and Alice Mitchell's son
- Youthful archer
- Monk's wear
- Hindu queen
- RV interrupters
- Measure of loudness
- Fennellike seeds
- Smartly dressed
- Of grandparents
- Pelvic bone: prefix
- Black, poetically
- "You ___ Too Beautiful"
- Bil Keane's



10. Natives of Sligo

- Bright thought
- Gnat that won't scatter
- ____-bodied
- Fighting ___ (Big 10 team)
- Reed instrument
- Breakfast cereals
- Recoiled
- Skipper's post
- Underworld
- Medic ___ bracelet
- Those who repudiate
- Shetland and polo
- ___ at 'em!
- Gourami's home
- Mount ___, Texas
- Certain degree
- Circumference parts
- Brunch, e.g.
- Merely
- Accelerate
- Shetland and polo
- ___ at 'em!
- Gourami's home
- Mount ___, Texas
- Certain degree
- Sight at Machu Picchu
- Son of Isaac
- Mother's Day month
- Anger
- McCartney album

SOLUTION

8	3	1	6	2	7
5	4	1	9	3	2
3	6	8	5	2	9
7	9	4	3	8	1
1	2	5	4	6	7
4	1	7	2	9	8
2	5	3	6	1	4
9	8	6	7	3	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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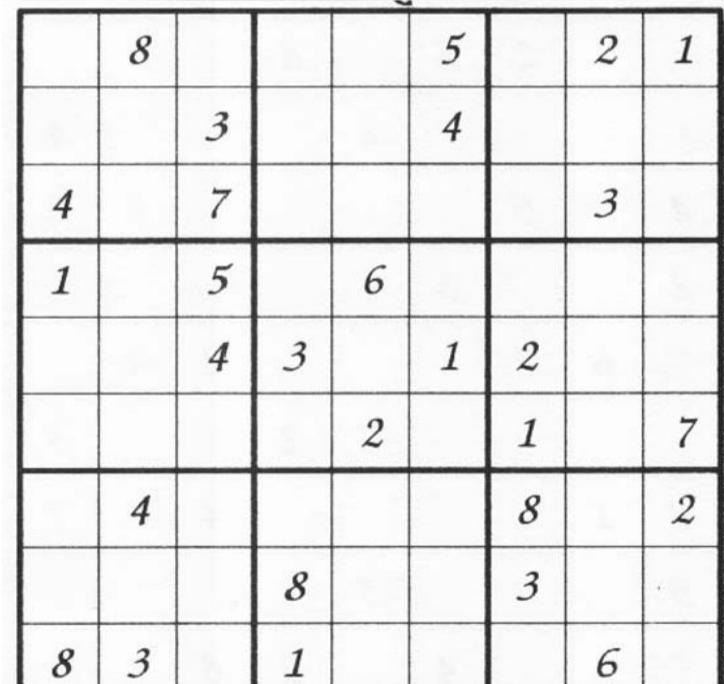
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SOLUTION

8	3	1	6	2	7
5	4	1	9	3	2
3	6	8	5	2	9
7	9	4	3	8	1
1	2	5	4	6	7
4	1	7	2	9	8
2	5	3	6	1	4
9	8	6	7	3	5

Finance

Samsung to pump \$1 bn into research, venture fund

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Samsung announced Monday it was pumping more than \$1 billion into research and venture capital funding efforts that will be led by a new hub for the South Korean giant in Silicon Valley.

The electronics giant said it was launching a \$1 billion "Samsung Ventures America Fund" and a \$100 million "catalyst fund" which will "fuel innovative technologies and business models through all stages of business."

The company also said it will be launching its new Samsung Strategy and Innovation Center in Menlo Park, California, with offices in South Korea and Israel, led by Young Sohn, the company's president and chief strategy officer of device solutions.

The move by the world's largest technology firm by revenue and top smartphone comes as it ramps up its battle in the United States against California-based Apple, with the two firms embroiled in bitter legal battles.

Samsung has been ordered to pay Apple \$1 billion for patent infringement but is appealing the verdict.

Samsung said the new drive would "create a powerful platform for igniting global innovation" and was part of an effort "to create new businesses and build open ecosystems through research and development, investments, strategic alliances, and M&A (mergers and acquisitions)."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Republicans pressure Obama over budget, spending

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republicans are pressuring US President Barack Obama to unveil a federal budget, saying failure to introduce a blueprint by Monday as required shows the White House is not serious about curbing spending.

House Republicans plan to take up a measure this week that would force the president to identify the date that his fiscal year budget would balance when he submits it to Congress later this year. If the budget does not do so, Obama would have to submit a new one that does.

Republicans in the House will soon pass a budget, but "for the fourth time in five years this White House has proven it does not take trillion-dollar deficits seriously enough to submit a budget on time," Boehner added.

The president is required by Congress to submit his budget request for the upcoming fiscal year by the first Monday of February.

Paul Ryan, chairman of the powerful House Budget Committee and last year's Republican vice presidential nominee, said he was disappointed but "not surprised" that the president missed his deadline, and that Obama and Senate Democrats repeatedly "shirk their duty" on the budget.

White House spokesman Jay Carney dismissed the criticism, urging a focus on "substance over deadlines" and denouncing House Republi-

cans for passing "highly partisan" budgets that have "no support among the American people."

The budget spat comes on the heels of December's bitterly fought battle over how to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff, the combination of tax hikes and spending cuts that threatened to drag the economy back toward recession unless Congress acted.

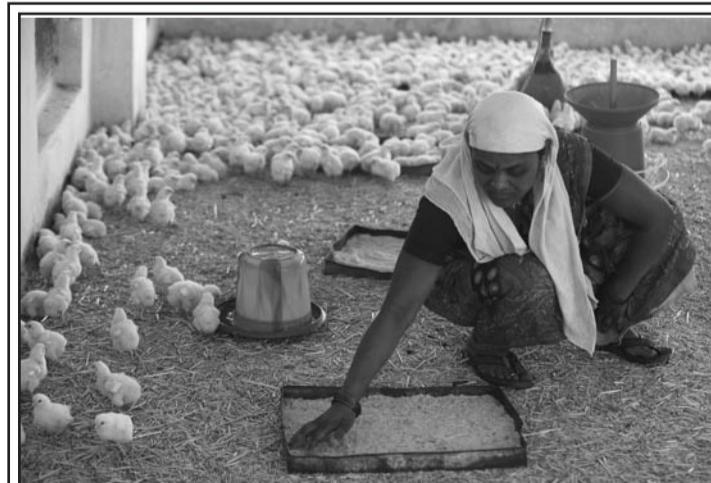
Lawmakers ultimately raised taxes on the very rich, and postponed until March 1 the start of nearly \$1 trillion in automatic cuts to defense and domestic spending over the next decade, a process known as sequester.

Democrats have been mulling options for averting the mandated cuts, including a proposal that would raise further revenues while imposing new spending cuts.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Sunday that "there's still more that we can do" in terms of closing tax loopholes and raising more revenues in order to avert the sequester.

But Republicans want new taxes taken off the table after Congress agreed to tax hikes for income above \$450,000.

Bitterly divided lawmakers have failed to agree on a path forward, with the across-the-board cuts threatening to dent a fragile US economy that saw unemployment rise 0.1 percentage points to 7.9 percent in January.



KOREGAON MULK (AFP) : This photo shows an employee working at a poultry farm in Koregaon Mul village, some 30 kilometres from the western Indian city of Pune. India's booming middle-class is driving the demand for meat in a country with a traditionally low intake -- a survey in 2006 showed that 40 percent of the population were vegetarian



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Oil prices fall on profit-taking

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices fell Monday on profit-taking after enjoying healthy gains at the end of last week following encouraging US jobs data, analysts said.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in March shed 76 cents to \$116 a barrel in London midday deals. The contract had reached a near five-month high at \$117.07 a barrel on Friday.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for March, dropped 95 cents to \$96.82 a barrel in Monday trade.

"We're starting to see a little healthy pullback. Oil prices were quite strong last week on

US nonfarm payroll results," said Yang Weiming, premium client manager at IG Markets Singapore.

The US Labor Department on Friday released figures showing a significant upward revision in the number of net jobs added each month in 2012, with monthly growth averaging 181,000, well above the prior estimate of 153,000.

Crude prices were also supported by encouraging Chinese manufacturing data that indicated the world's biggest energy consumer is picking up strength after several quarters of slowing growth.

S&P faces US gov't suit over mortgage bond ratings

NEW YORK (AFP) - The US Justice Department plans to sue Standard & Poor's over its rating of mortgage bonds prior to the 2008 financial crisis, S&P said Monday.

The suit, according to S&P, targets its ratings in 2007 of certain collateralized debt obligations, packages of mortgages sold to investors that were at the center of the 2008 financial crisis sparked by the US housing collapse.

S&P promised a vigorous defense, saying the looming lawsuit would be "entirely without factual or legal merit."

A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment, but media reports said the suit could be filed later this week.

The US complaint, as described by S&P, appears to allege that S&P's high ratings on CDOs played a major role in the crisis because of the confidence they engendered in investors.

But S&P said that in 2007 and prior to that time it had

downgraded a number of residential mortgage-backed securities included in the CDOs ahead of other ratings agencies.

US prosecutors have questioned former S&P analysts on whether the firm ignored its own standards when rating the securities because of fees from investment banks, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

Up until last week, the Justice Department and S&P had held settlement talks. But the discussions ceased after the Justice Department said it would seek at least \$1 billion to settle the case, according to the New York Times, which cited people who were briefed on the government's plans.

S&P contends that it was far from alone in its failure to predict the scale of the collapse of the US housing market.

The suit, which is expected to be joined by state governments, could be filed as soon as this week, according to the Wall Street Journal.

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisewer are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Raven maniacs rule at South Beach Lounge for Super Bowl Sunday



Tara, Gary, Alex, Nick and Alise are Raven Maniacs

-- Though most sports spectators would never miss the Super Bowl, the two teams vying for the trophy, San Fran-

cisco 49er's and Baltimore Ravens were observed to have mostly lukewarm support among those watching the

game this past Sunday.

As many described their feelings, it was a case of "the enemy of my enemy is my

friend;" they wanted to see the team that defeated their favorite teams for the league titles lose, but really didn't care that much who won.

Not so at South Beach Lounge in the South Beach Center, where fanatical Ravens fans from Baltimore, Gary, Alex, Nick, Alise and Tara, all wearing their Ravens' jerseys with favorite player numbers, were thrilled with the evening's outcome. "We all own seats at the home stadium," Gary explained, "and we never miss a game. We have a group of about twenty or more, rent a bus, and do tailgate parties. Actually, most of our group has gone to New Orleans for the Super Bowl, but we own timesharing here in Aruba, and it is a great place

to be with friends to take in the game. We especially like the ambiance and location of South Beach Lounge after we discovered it last year."

They report the financial advantage is also appealing. Tickets to the Superdome for this game were \$7,000 each, and then add on the cost of premium rates at a hotel and airfare. The second half of the game provided some stressful moments, but finally the group's team was triumphant.

"We imagine our friends in New Orleans have had a fantastic time and the atmosphere was electric," Gary admits. "However, once the game is over we have one thing over them for sure-we can say still in Aruba. You can't beat that."

'Warm Bodies' tops N. America box office



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The romantic zombie comedy "Warm Bodies" topped the North American box office on its opening weekend, industry estimates said Sunday, earning more than twice as much as its nearest rival.

"Warm Bodies," based on Isaac Marion's book of the same name inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, took a healthy \$20 million in sales.

"Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunt," a horror movie twist on the classic fairy tale took a distant second, pulling in \$9.2 million.

Oscars season has helped a string of contenders stay in the top 10, with romantic comedy "Silver Linings Playbook" taking third place this week with \$8.1 million in takings, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Horror flick "Mama," in which a shadowy being trails two young children rescued after being lost in the woods when their parents died, fell from second to fourth place on its third weekend in theaters, with \$6.7 million in sales.

The Oscar-tipped Osama bin Laden manhunt movie "Zero Dark Thirty" slipped to fifth place with \$5.3 million, followed by Sylvester Stallone's latest effort, "Bullet to the Head," which opened in sixth place with \$4.5 million.

"Parker," starring Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez working together on a heist, fell from fifth to seventh place on its second weekend in theaters, taking \$3.2 million in box office sales.

Meanwhile, Quentin Tarantino's blood-soaked spaghetti Western tribute "Django Unchained," which last month won two Globes Globes and gained four Oscar nominations, was in eighth spot, earning \$3.0 million.

That put it ahead of musical adaptation "Les Miserables," which took in \$2.44 million, in ninth place.

Rounding out the top 10 was "Lincoln," Steven Spielberg's Oscar hopeful starring Daniel Day-Lewis as the revered 19th century US president, which with \$2.41 million re-entered the chart by jumping up one place from 11th last week.

Kashmir cleric says girl band 'un-Islamic'



SRINAGAR (AFP) - Indian Kashmir's most senior Muslim cleric has called for the plug to be pulled on an all-girl rock group, calling the band "un-Islamic" and accusing them of "indecent" behaviour.

Pragaash (First Light) sprang to prominence last December when the high school trio, all of whom are Muslim, won an annual "Battle of Bands" competition held in Srinagar, the state capital.

But the three-piece, whose members are all aged around 16, has since been the target of a cultural backlash in the Muslim majority state, including hate mail on their Facebook page, and have held back from playing any more concerts.

While artists, numerous others and even the state's chief minister have sprung to their defence, the government appointed Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Bashiruddin Ahmad, has now weighed into the debate by calling for them to quit.

"When girls and young

he said in a statement on Sunday.

"Some girls who believe this mirage to be a real spring are set on a destructive path. They should stop in their tracks."

Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state and hardline Islamists have a reputation for trying to impose Islamic law, forcing the closure of cinemas and liquor stores with the onset of an anti-India insurgency in 1990.

Kashmiri women, who often do not wear full veils, have in the past been targeted by campaigns to enforce Islamic dress codes.

Shakira's little Joy



Tenderness comes to mind when we see this beautiful photo of Gerard Pique with son Milan posted by mom Shakira.

Señor Frog's: The place to get crazy on Super Bowl Sunday



Superbowl special winner Sebastian Rojas gets the VIP treatment

-- Señor Frog's is always a fun spot whether there is a special event or not. A fantastic all-inclusive "all you can eat and drink" special brought many to their door to enjoy the Super Bowl, where two giant screen were set up to catch the game on their charming terraces.

The major sporting event

included the added perk of their crazy crew providing their own halftime entertainment and free tequila shots, a regular feature of the restaurant/nightclub.

Rodney Duckworth, who has been coming to Aruba for 14 years,

reports "I always spend Super Bowl Sunday at Señor Frog's. You can't beat the deal or the ambiance; it is always fun." Rodney's lady love, Patty, and his mom, Susan, back on Aruba for the first time in 20 years, agreed wholeheartedly.

Even though everyone enjoyed a great deal on food,



typical Senior Frogs craziness along with football madness



Patty and Rodney always choose Senior Frogs for their Super Bowl Sunday

drink and sports for the occasion, none was more pleased than Sebastian Rojas, the winner of the Señor Frog's Super Bowl Contest on Facebook. Friends of their page had to answer two questions, one Super

Bowl related, and the other, "Where is the closest Señor Frog's to New Orleans located?" Sebastian was the winner, garnering a full night of food unlimited beverages, which they ordered "by the yard," of course!

by Rosalie Klein

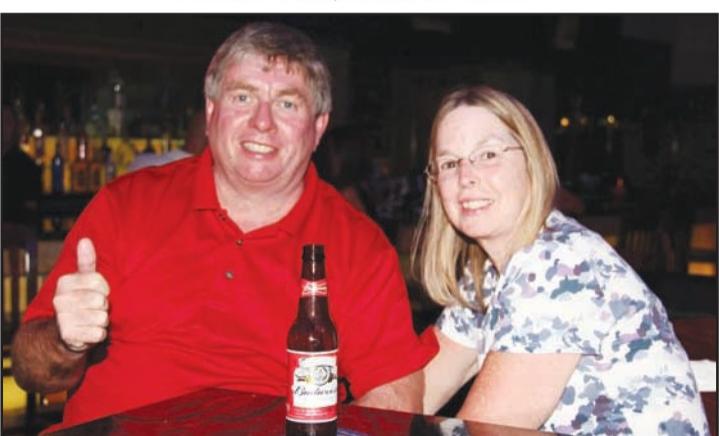
A bucket of Bud and the Hard Rock Crew made it a super night for football fans



Falcons rule, death to 49ers



Falcons rule, death to 49ers



Patriot fans George and Darlene Foley

-- Football fanatics had many choices where to catch the big game on Super Bowl Sunday, but many found a great special on The King of Beers with a choice of nachos or hot wings, plus the great ambiance of Hard

Rock Café Aruba, to be just the right combination.

Aside from 25 flat screens broadcasting every play, two giant screens were set up, one indoors and the other on the huge Hard Rock terrace, where



Choice of personal TV or the giant screen

they have live musical performance nearly every night.

For most of the sports fans at Hard Rock, they didn't care so much who won, as long as the team that beat their favorites to the Super Bowl lost. George and Patty Foley from Boston are hardcore Patriot's fans, but

lost hope by halftime of seeing revenge on the Baltimore Ravens. "We booked this trip to Aruba with the plan of watching the Patriots play, surrounding by lots of other New England fans. It is still great to be in Aruba, and Hard Rock Café is our favorite place for

watching the game, but they got knocked out of the box about two weeks before departure, so the outcome is not THAT important to us." With a strong 49er's rally late in the game, they came close to realizing their hope. It provided an exciting end to what had been a relatively ho-hum game.

The close Raven's victory, however, perfectly suited the Johnson, Zehnder and Snow families from Utah and Minnesota. Fanatical Falcon fans, they were quite upset when the 49ers "usurped" the Atlanta team's shot at the title, and were quite content with the defeat of the San Francisco team.

All agreed, you couldn't fault Beyoncé's spectacular halftime performance and Hard Rock Café as a place to enjoy the end of the football season!

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Buster owner Rusty and his sport fanatic friends

--The cozy surroundings of Buster's Garage, in the Trop Casino, makes it the favorite sport bar of local fanatics

when they want to follow a game. Owner Rusty is a congenial host and shares that special craziness of sport

Brian Stedeford and Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association CEO Jim Hepple are notorious sport fans; they were clad in 49er's red along with ATV English News Anchorwoman Yentl Lieuw. Unfortunately, their enthusiasm for their team did not carry the day.

Red beards from fanatical fans were fun, but not quite the charm to win the title, though San Francisco did a remarkable comeback in the second half, much as they did in the playoffs. However, Baltimore claimed their second Super Bowl victory after a super start in the first half, only to lose momentum after a power failure delayed the game by more



Miss Canada Michelle Begin and her football cronies



Emmit and Suzanne are intent on the game



49er fans Brian Stedeford, Jim Hepple and Yentl Lieuw wear their colors

spectators, using all three satellite dishes to find "some game, somewhere, at anytime."

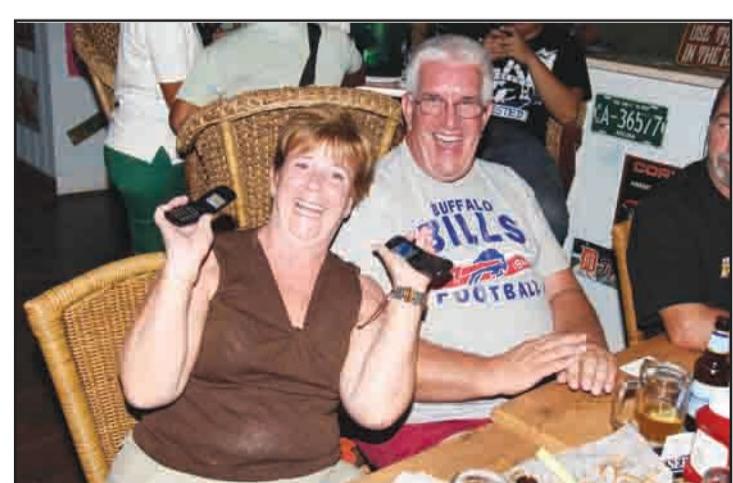
Everyone who lives on Aruba and has a passion for sports knew where to be for Super Bowl Sunday, and the place was packed. Famous for their fare of game-watching favorites, it attracted locals and regulars from the adjacent timeshare resorts with a special "Tailgate" menu and buckets of Miller Lite.

Tropicana Resort Manager

than half an hour. It seems some of their power had drained as well as 49ers staged a record rally beginning half way through the third quarter.

Raven's managed to maintain a 3-point lead for a final score of 34-31 and their Quarterback Joe Flacco was named MVP. As one Baltimore fan described it "It started good. It got ugly. It ended great." Most agreed, it was a great night at Buster's Garage, no matter who won the trophy.

by Rosalie Klein



Rosie has her phones ready to take bets

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NFL: Ravens edge 49ers to capture Super Bowl crown



NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana, (AFP) - In one of the most electrifying Super Bowls on the field, the Baltimore Ravens overcame a 35-minute stadium power failure Sunday to defeat the San Francisco 49ers 34-31.

The Ravens went from blowout to shootout, leading 28-6 when the blackout hit only to see the 49ers score the next 17 points, but that was not enough to deny Baltimore their first Super Bowl crown in 12 years and second in team history.

Sparked by three touchdowns passes from Joe Flacco and a 108-yard kickoff return by Jacoby Jones to open the second half, the Ravens won for the first time since the 2000 season and gave coach John Harbaugh sibling bragging rights over younger brother Jim, the coach of the 49ers.

Players, coaches and a crowd of 71,024 spectators were almost left in the dark as a power failure early in the second half at the Louisiana Superdome stadium halted the game with the Ravens leading 28-6.

When the lights returned,

the Ravens did not cope with the disruption well and the 49ers scored the next 17 points, nearly pulling off the greatest victory comeback in Super Bowl history.

Ravens quarterback Flacco was named the game's Most Valuable Player after completing 22-of-33 passes for 287 yards. Flacco, who is in the final year of his contract, has thrown 11 touchdowns in the post-season.

"It's unbelievable," Flacco said. "I tell you what -- we didn't make it easy."

Flacco hit Jones, Dennis Pitta and Anquan Boldin for touchdowns in a first half that was dominated by the Ravens, whose team of destiny tag grew with every post-season victory.

John consoled his brother Jim when they met on the field after the game for the traditional coaches' handshake.

"It was really hard," John said. "At the end of the game that was the hardest thing I had ever experienced. "I told him I loved him."

The Ravens, whose 12-year gap between Super Bowl titles is a record, looked like win-

ners in a rout until the 49ers found new life after the power delay.

San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick led a second-half comeback for the 49ers, who scored 17 unanswered points in the third quarter to pull within 28-23.

Kaepernick ran 15 yards for a touchdown with just over 10 minutes remaining in the fourth to cut the Ravens lead to 31-29, but that was as close as the 49ers would come.

"Our guys battled and they competed," San Francisco's Harbaugh said. "We got a spark and we weren't going to look back after that. We battled right to the brink of winning. It was a heck of a football game."

Baltimore's defense denied San Francisco on a late-game drive and the Ravens ran down the clock at the end of the game, then surrendered a two-point safety with only four seconds remaining.

One tackle on a free kick later and the Ravens were champions.

During the power outage delay, the players spent the time on the field and the side-

lines trying to stay loose by doing warmup exercises, passing balls or working on their kicking technique.

Some players had fun, getting the crowd to start cheering or begin a chant.

Reserve power kept the field from going dark but some scoreboards and escalators stopped working.

Superdome officials said after the game that the failure was caused partially by an "abnormality in the system" that tripped a breaker switch.

"The sensing equipment operated as designed and opened a breaker, causing power to be partially cut to the Superdome in order to isolate the issue," said Superdome spokesman Eric Eagan. "Backup generators kicked in immediately."

Jones took a pass from Flacco on a brilliant 56-yard pass and run play with just under two minutes remaining in the second quarter for the Ravens.

Jones fell backwards while making his catch, then rose and scrambled past two San Francisco defenders before diving into the end zone to give the Ravens a 21-3 lead.

Flacco also completed a one-yard pass to Pitta for a touchdown in the second quarter and a 13-yard toss to Boldin to open the scoring on the Ravens' first possession of the game.

Boldin, who caught six passes for 104 yards, outraced

49ers defender Donte Whitner before leaping to snag the Flacco pass for his fourth reception of the playoffs.

The game also capped the brilliant career of Ravens superstar Ray Lewis, who will ride off into the sunset with his second Super Bowl ring.

"It is the most ultimate feel-



Ray Lewis #52 of the Baltimore Ravens holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

ing," said Lewis, who was Most Valuable Player of the 2000 season Super Bowl. "This is the way to do it. There is no other way to go out and end a career."

The 37-year-old Lewis joins former NFL greats John Elway, Jerome Bettis and Michael Strahan as players who were able to win a Super Bowl in their last season.

Lewis said he is looking forward to a new chapter in his life.

"The only thing that ends for me is football. Life really begins for Ray Lewis now."